



Georgia Department of Revenue

Oconee County Local Ad Valorem Tax Facts

Caution: By viewing the web pages at the Georgia Local Government Services Division's website, taxpayers should obtain a general understanding of the property tax laws of Georgia that apply statewide. This page contains local information about a specific county. While every attempt has been made to include everything a taxpayer needs to know, mistakes are possible and taxpayers should contact their local tax officials for verification and clarification of the information found on this page. Information on this page was current as of 11/29/06.

LOCAL TAX OFFICIALS

Tax Commissioner

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Website: <http://www.oconeecounty.net/Government/taxcommissioner/index.htm>

Chairman of the Board of Tax Assessors

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PROPERTY TAX RETURNS Property tax returns must be filed with the Oconee County Board of Tax Assessors between January 1 and April 1 of each year. The taxpayer may elect not to file a property tax return if there have been no changes that would affect the value of their property from the previous year. Failure to file a new return when there have been improvements made to the property will subject the taxpayer to a 10% penalty on the value of the property not returned plus interest and possibly penalties from the date the tax would have been due.

Click the links below for more information on property tax assessments and filing tax returns:

<http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/ptd/adm/taxguide/geninf.shtml>

<http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/ptd/adm/taxguide/payment.shtml>

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS This section describes special local homestead exemptions that apply only in this county. Statewide homestead exemptions are also available and may provide more tax relief depending upon the taxpayer's circumstances.

The deadline for filing an application for a homestead exemption in Oconee County is March 1. Application for homestead exemption is made with the Tax Commissioner in the county. Failure to apply by the deadline will result in loss of the exemption for that year.

The following local homestead exemptions are offered in this county:

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PREDOMINANT HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS USED AND THE EXEMPT AMOUNT GIVEN BY CLASSIFICATION FOR 2005 IN OCONEE COUNTY

CLASS	QUALIFICATIONS	STATE	COUNTY	SCHOOL	BOND
L-1	Age 65 – Total income less than \$15,000, this total excludes Social Security and their Retirement Pension. There is a \$50,784 income cap. (HB1334, 1998) www.legis.ga.gov/legis/1997_98/leg/fulltext/hb1334.htm	\$2,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
L-4	Age 65 – Total income less than \$10,000 excluding Social Security & their Retirement Pension. There is a \$50,784 income cap. (HB1336, 1998) www.legis.ga.gov/legis/1997_98/leg/fulltext/hb1336.htm	\$4,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
S-1	Any person who owns their home and living they're on January 1 st of applicable year.	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
S-3	Age 62 (but not 65) Their net income is less than \$10,000 excluding Social Security & their Retirement Pension. There is a \$50,784 income cap.	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
S-4	Age 65 – Their net income is less than \$10,000 excluding Social Security & their Retirement Pension. There is a \$50,784 income cap.	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
S-5	100% service connected military disability - letter from VA required	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

Click the link below for more information on homestead exemptions:

<http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/ptd/adm/taxguide/exempt/homestead.shtml>

FREEPORT EXEMPTIONS Oconee County voters have elected to exempt the following types of commercial and industrial inventory:

- Class 1 - Raw materials and goods in process of manufacture - 100% exemption
- Class 2 - Finished goods produced in Georgia within the last 12 months - 100% exemption
- Class 3 - Finished goods stored in Georgia within the last 12 months and destined for shipment out-of-state - 100% exemption

The deadline for filing an application for freeport exemption with the Board of Tax Assessors is April 1 to receive the full exemption. For more information on freeport exemptions click the link below:

<http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/ptd/adm/taxguide/exempt.shtml>

AD VALOREM TAX PAYMENTS Taxes are normally due in this county by November 15 of each year but the law allows taxpayers 60 days from the date of mailing before interest may be charged. Ad valorem taxes are collected by the Tax Commissioner. The actual deadlines for previous years in Oconee County are:

- 2006 Taxes – 11/15/06
- 2005 Taxes - 11/15/05
- 2004 Taxes – 11/15/04
- 2003 Taxes - 11/15/03

After these deadlines interest at the rate of 1% per month is charged. Additionally, a penalty will apply to all taxes that are not paid within 30 days of the deadline. For more information on tax payment deadlines click the link below:

<http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/ptd/adm/taxguide/payment.shtml>

VALUATION APPEALS If the assessors disagree with the taxpayer's returned value, they will change the value and a change of assessment notice will be sent to the taxpayer. If the taxpayer wishes to appeal the change, the appeal must be sent to the Board of Tax Assessors and postmarked no later than 45 days from the date of the change of assessment notice. For more information on the procedure to file an appeal click the link below:

<http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/ptd/adm/taxguide/appeals.shtml>

AD VALOREM TAX REFUNDS If a taxpayer discovers they have paid taxes that they believe were illegal or erroneous, they may request a refund within 3 years of the date of payment. The claim for refund should be filed in writing with the county governing authority within three years after the date of payment. For more information on the procedure to file a claim for refund click the link below:

<http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/ptd/adm/taxguide/refunds.shtml>

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION Oconee County is on the 12-month staggered registration system. Vehicle tags are sold at the Courthouse, 23 N. Main Street, Watkinsville, Ga. 30677. Hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 - 4:30.

Vehicle owners must renew their registration and pay the ad valorem tax every year with the Tax Commissioner during the 30 day period which ends on their birthday. If the vehicle is owned by more than one person, then the birthday of the person's name that appears first on the title is used to determine the registration period. Newly acquired vehicles must be registered within 30 days; the owner would then come back in during the 30 day period which ends on their birthday to pay the ad valorem tax. For more information on motor vehicle ad valorem taxation click the link below:

<http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/ptd/cds/mvman/index.shtml>

MOBILE HOME TAXATION

Mobile Home Location Permits Taxpayers locating a mobile home in Oconee County must apply to the Tax Commissioner for a location permit within 30 days of permanent placement of the home in the county and then annually thereafter between January 1 and May 1. Mobile homes that are temporarily located in the county and are owned by a business that is not located in the county should notify the Board of Tax Assessors of their presence to avoid being cited for failure to apply for the location permit.

Mobile Home Returns Owners of mobile homes that are located in the county on January 1 must return the mobile home for taxation to the Tax Commissioner on or before May 1 of each year at the same time they apply for the location permit. For more information on mobile homes click the link below:

<http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/ptd/adm/taxguide/mobile.shtml>

INTANGIBLE RECORDING Every holder of a long-term note secured by real estate must have the security instrument recorded in the county where the real estate is located within 90 days. In Oconee County the Clerk of the Superior Court is responsible for collecting intangible recording tax. The Clerk can be contacted at:

Angela Watson
P.O. Box 1099
Watkinsville, Ga. 30677
(706)769-3940

The tax for recording the note is at the rate of \$1.50 for each \$500.00 or fractional part of the face amount of the note. For more information on the intangible recording tax click the link below:

<http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov/ptd/adm/taxguide/intrec.shtml>

OTHER INFORMATION

Local Ordinances There are no local ordinances pertaining to ad valorem taxation.

Fees for Garbage, Fire, Street Lights The Tax Commissioner is not responsible for collecting fees for garbage and fire. Street light fees were added to property tax bills beginning with tax year 1999.

Independent School Systems There are no independent city school systems in this county.

City Tax The Tax Commissioner is responsible for collecting city ad valorem taxes on real and personal property for the towns of North High Shoals, Watkinsville and Bishop. All other city taxes are collected at:

Town of Bogart
P.O. Box 206
Bogart, Ga. 30622

Other County Links

[Oconee County Board of Commissioners](#)

This webpage is a service provided by the Georgia Department of Revenue, Local Government Services Division. Comments or questions about this page should be directed to: <mailto:Local.Government.Services@dor.ga.gov>

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